

NEWSLETTER

December 2018

Your monthly update from the Diocese of Rochester

GROW ENRICH RESOURCE



NEWS IN BRIEF

LOST SHEEP

Knitted 'lost' sheep overran the church of St Lawrence, Seal Chart, as part of a fun activity to engage with families and young people in the village.

Organiser, Hilary Darque, says the idea was adapted from a Messy Church Nativity Sheep trail which would usually see sheep dotted around local shops:

"It was really worth doing. There was a lot of interaction between the churches and parents came with their children and grandparents with grandchildren, some of whom don't normally attend church services."

FOLLOW THE STAR

The Church of England's Advent and Christmas campaign, #FollowTheStar is now in full swing, inviting everyone to make a closer journey to Jesus this Christmas.

One parish has taken to the airwaves, with the Reverend Andrew Axon, Vicar of Lamberhurst & Matfield, embarking on his own Christmas journey through the village, meeting locals who share what Christmas means to them.

Available online at:
www.rochester.anglican.org/media/



BISHOP'S ADVENT MESSAGE ADDRESSES YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

"All young people want is peace: peace of mind." says Bishop Simon Burton-Jones in his Advent message to the Diocese.

He also says that comments blaming young people for not being 'robust enough' to deal with life today are "not to be tolerated in the Church."

His address follows sobering statistics, released in a recent NHS report, which suggests that one in eight children in England is living with a mental health problem.

Bishop Simon also recently attended a conference in Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells, which explored the role churches can play in supporting young people with their mental well-being.

"Churches have the capacity to offer care across the generations and to use the sizeable local spaces we have to bless those who have no safe space."

Watch his full address at: www.rochester.anglican.org/

TOGETHER^{new}

The FREE magazine from the Diocese of Rochester | Issue 1 | Winter 2018/19

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COVER STORY: OFFERING GOD'S LOVE ALL YEAR | PAGE 8



NEW QUARTERLY MAGAZINE FOR DIOCESE HAS ARRIVED!

Together - a new quarterly magazine sharing the life and faith of the Diocese has been launched in parishes.

Speaking about the new magazine, Jennifer Ross, Communications Officer said: "Earlier in the year, we asked people their views on a new publication. Many people expressed that they still valued having something in print.

"They also wanted something that was engaging, that connected them to others, that nourished them spiritually and intellectually, and that they would be proud to share with others. Together is the result."

In a handy, more environmentally friendly 'handbag' sized format, Jennifer is delighted with the result: "I hope that when people receive a copy they will agree that it is very different from what has gone before and that they will share their feedback with us."

If you do not see a **Together** in your church please get in touch to: communications@rochester.anglican.org



VISION ONE YEAR ON

Having completed a busy and productive first year on Called Together, plans are in place to do more communication on sharing stories and demonstrating progress around the vision.

In 2019, planned action includes events for resourcing rural churches, to share resources for discipleship, for prayer, church growth and more. Read a full update on each aim at: www.rochester.anglican.org/strategy/called-together/

TRAINING & EVENTS

CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS

Advent and Christmas Services - December, Rochester Cathedral

Make Rochester Cathedral part of your Christmas this year with a variety of services and events.

Visit: www.rochestercathedral.org/

CHRISTMAS UNWRAPPED

Sunday 9 December, 6pm to 8pm, KICC, Buckmore Park, Kent

A Christmas carol concert for the whole family. Join preacher J. John, the Salvation Army Band and WE CAN Sing UK for a festive celebration to kick off Christmas together. Visit: www.christmasunwrappedkent.co.uk/

BETHLEHEM: TOWN OF HOPES AND FEARS

December 9, 6pm, St Matthew's Church, Wigmore, ME8 0NX

An opportunity to remember and pray for those living in 21st Century Bethlehem.

With pictures and recent reports from the place itself - organised by the Diocesan Friends of the Holy Land.

Get in touch



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